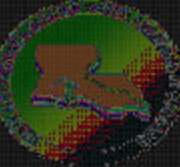


Louisiana Source Water Assessment Program complete



The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality completed the Source Water Assessment Program by the Environmental Protection Agency's deadline of May 6, 2003. Louisiana was one of only ten states to complete the program by the set date.

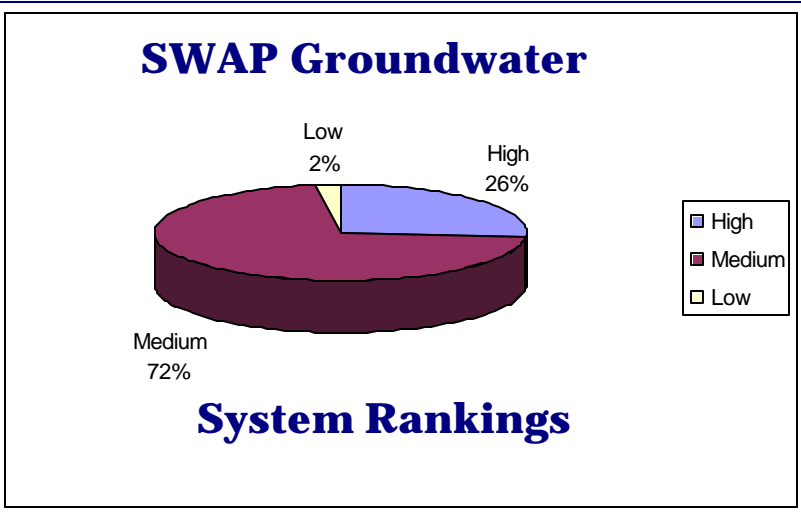
The 1996 Amendment to the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1976 required all states to develop a Source Water Protection Program to ensure safe water for all citizens through the protection of water resources.

LDEQ hired a contractor, C-K Associates, to complete the assessments. It took four 2-man field crews approximately 2.5 years to complete the assessments, along with the help of DEQ and Louisiana Rural Water Association.

The program compared all systems in the state and then ranked them according to their susceptibility to contamination. For groundwater, a total of 1727 water systems, 3500 groundwater wells, and 15,000 potential sources of contamination (PSOCs) were surveyed. Out of these, 454 systems ranked high, 1237 ranked medium, and 36 ranked low. Sixty surface water systems

with a total of 85 intakes were surveyed and 2500 PSOCs were found. Thirty-nine systems ranked high, 18 ranked medium, and 3 ranked low. Six combination surface and ground water systems were surveyed. All 6 ground water components of the combinations systems ranked medium, while 5 of the surface water components ranked medium and 1 ranked high.

Please refer to your SWAP report for more information. Contact us if you do not have a report, if you find an error, or if you have questions.



**GOT NEWS? IDEAS?**

If you have any news or ideas that you would like to share with other communities in next year's issue of the newsletter, please submit them to Micaela Marchand at the following address:

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality  
Office of Environmental Assessment  
Post Office Box 4314  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4314  
225-219-3510

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
Visit us on the web at:  
[www.deq.state.la.us](http://www.deq.state.la.us)

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality  
P.O. Box 4314  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4314  
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September 2003

Office of Environmental Assessment

Issue 7



DEQ kicks off pilot Drinking Water Protection Program in Avoyelles Parish

Do you know where your drinking water comes from? Approximately fifty Avoyelles parish residents learned the answer to that question and much more at a community meeting held May 1, 2003 at the Marksville Fire Station. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) Drinking Water Protection Team organized the meeting to furnish practical tips to area residents to protect and conserve their drinking water. The May 1<sup>st</sup> gathering marked the kickoff for the Drinking Water Protection Program (DWPP) public outreach campaign. This program combines the efforts of the Wellhead Protection Program and the Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP), while adding new protection components, such as public education. The theme of the campaign is "Protect Your Water One Drop At A Time."

Publicity conducted prior to the community meeting landed the campaign team members on the local morning news circuit. The television appearances afforded the team the opportunity to reach a much broader audience. Team member Don Haydel was interviewed by Bob Madison, of the Lagniappe Morning Show, on the ABC affiliate KLAX-TV Channel 31. The Jambalaya Morning Show with David

Luck on KALB-TV News Channel 5, an NBC affiliate, was Don's next stop in the morning circuit.

The DWPP is a voluntary program designed to assist and educate communities on actions they can take to protect their drinking water sources. Implementation of the DWPP began with the pilot program in Avoyelles parish.

Spreading the word about the meeting to kickoff the pilot program was a joint effort between the Drinking Water Protection Team and DEQ's Communications Section. A combination of outreach methods was used to garner public interest, raise awareness about the campaign, and to get a high volume of attendance at the community meeting.

The Drinking Water Protection team first set out to

work with government officials to encourage the adoption of drinking water protection ordinances and to incorporate the use of the SWAP assessments into planning and zoning decisions. During this first phase, meetings and visits to the offices of the local water systems were also conducted. The team encouraged the completion of contingency plan reports by all systems that had not already done so. Now, all water systems from Avoyelles parish have completed the Wellhead Protection Program component of the DWPP.

A few weeks later, the team transferred their outreach effort to the classroom. The team visited local public and private schools where they made presentations to students.

The presentations provided students the opportunity to be-



Micaela Marchand and Don Haydel ask citizens if they know where their drinking water comes from at a community meeting to kickoff the Drinking Water Protection Program.







(Above) During a presentation to students at the Avoyelles parish charter school, DEQ Drinking Water Protection team member Micaela Marchand demonstrates the permeability of sand, gravel and clay. (At left) Avoyelles parish citizens attending the first committee meeting discuss their roles as volunteers for DEQ's Drinking Water Protection Program.

come more aware of their environment by learning about where their drinking water comes from and why it is important to protect it. The team also distributed informational handouts and conducted hands-on activities tailored to the various grade levels. The students displayed strong interest during the demonstrations. In all, the team shared valuable drinking water and environmental information to over 1,000 students ranging from elementary to high school level. In addition, they sent letters to the parents to inform them of the meeting.

The team spent several weeks visiting and passing out flyers at local businesses. The team mailed out invitations to all elected officials, sent postcards to citizens and business owners, and sent news releases to newspapers.

The outreach efforts conducted prior to the meeting paid off. Business owners, elected officials, representatives from the parish water systems, teachers, private citizens, and members of the news media attended the May 1<sup>st</sup> community meeting. Topics of the discussion included why it makes good environmental, health and economic sense to prevent drinking water contamination. The participants demonstrated a high level of interest in learning what they could do on an individual or collaborative basis to protect the integrity of the drinking water in their area and ensure clean drinking water for future generations. In opening remarks, Mayor Richard Michel of Marksville applauded the hard work and emphasis the Drinking Water Protection Team has placed on Avoyelles parish.

Vince Sagnibene, Administrator of DEQ's Environmental Evaluation Division, also in attendance at the meeting, stated afterwards, "Our message 'Protect Your Drinking Water One Drop At A Time' and team have been well received. I am pleased with the outpouring of support and interest by the citizens, elected officials, businesses and industry in Avoyelles parish."

At the meeting the team solicited the help of volunteers to form a committee that would serve as direct contact to DEQ and the community. Several citizens expressed a desire to get involved. Eighteen residents elected to volunteer their time, service and resources to further the goals of the campaign. The first meeting of the volunteer committee was held May 29, 2003. The team provided each volunteer with a comprehensive user-friendly manual, which included printed material to use as guidance documents for the committee. They also received decals and promotional items, such as tee-shirts, pens, and pencils, to share with the community in promoting the campaign's message "Protect Your Water One Drop At A Time."

A second meeting was held on July 17, 2003. The next meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2003, in Simmesport, LA.

The Drinking Water Protection Team is part of the Environmental Evaluation Division under the Office of Environmental Assessment. The team currently consists of Jesse Means, who is a geologist, and Micaela Marchand, an environmental scientist. The extended DWPP team consists of Howard Fielding, Mary

Gentry, and John Jennings. The entire team was responsible for securing federal funds that have been used to develop and implement several programs under the Aquifer Evaluation and Protection Section. The DWPP is an extension of the Wellhead Protection Program that DEQ has run for well over a decade. The Wellhead Protection Program has received numerous awards and certificates of recognition from the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for excellence and efficiency.

The Drinking Water Team presented information about the Avoyelles parish DWPP at the EPA Source Water Protection conference in Washington, D. C., June 2-4 2003. The team will continue to work with the committee in Avoyelles parish to write drinking water protection ordinances and conduct public education activities.

Please contact Jesse Means or Micaela Marchand, at 225-219-3510 to solicit an environmental demonstration by the team or to learn more about the DWPP. Visit [www.deq.state.la.us](http://www.deq.state.la.us) for more information.



During a presentation to students in an environmental science class at Marksville High School, DEQ Drinking Water Protection team member Micaela Marchand uses an aquifer model to demonstrate how easily groundwater can become contaminated.

# WELLHEAD PROTECTION PROGRAMS APPROVED AS OF 2003

City of Abbeville  
City of Alexandria  
Town of Arnaudville  
Atlanta Water System  
Avoyelles Waterworks District #1  
Avoyelles Ward 3 Waterworks Dist.  
City of Baker  
City of Bastrop (Peoples Water Service)  
Baton Rouge Water Co.  
Bayou Bonne Idee Water System, Inc.  
Bayou Des Cannes Water System  
Bayou Liberty Water Association  
Beauregard Waterworks Dist. #2  
Belmont Water System  
Town of Bernice  
City of Bogalusa  
City of Breaux Bridge  
Brouillette Water System  
Town of Broussard  
Buckeye Water District #50  
City of Bunkie  
Cadeville Water District  
Calcasieu Parish W.D. #1 (Moss Bluff)  
Calcasieu Parish W.D. #2 (Mossville)  
Calcasieu Parish W.D. #4  
Calcasieu Parish W.D. #5  
Calcasieu Parish W.D. #7  
Calcasieu Parish W.D. #9 (Carlyss)  
Cameron Parish WWD #1  
Cameron Waterworks #2  
Cameron Waterworks #11  
Town of Campiti  
Town of Cheneyville  
Town of Church Point  
Village of Clarks  
Town of Colfax  
Town of Columbia  
Columbia Heights Water District  
Town of Cottonport  
Town of Coushatta  
Couteau Water System  
Creston Water System  
City of Crowley  
Town of Delcambre  
Town of Delhi  
Village of Delta  
City of Denham Springs  
City of DeQuincy  
City of DeRidder  
Village of Dry Prong  
Town of Duson  
East Columbia Water District  
East Feliciana Rural Water Assoc.  
Village of Epps  
City of Eunice (LAWCO)  
Town of Farmerville  
Town of Forest Hill  
Fort Polk (U.S. Army)  
Village of Gilbert  
Village of Goldonna  
Town of Grand Couteau  
Village of Grayson  
Greenwood Water System  
Town of Hackberry

City of Hammond  
Town of Haughton  
Hayes Water System  
Hebert Water System  
Village of Hessmer  
Town of Iowa  
City of Jeanerette  
Jeff Davis Central  
Town of Jena  
City of Jennings  
Town of Jonesboro  
Kolin-Ruby Wise W.D. 11A  
City of Lafayette  
Town of Lake Arthur  
City of Lake Charles  
LaSalle Waterworks Dist. #1  
Lawtell  
City of Leesville  
Leland Water System  
Lena Water System  
Town of Leonville  
Liddleville Water System  
Louisiana State Penitentiary  
Louisiana Tech University  
Town of Mamou  
Mamou Road Water System, Inc.  
Mandeville Water Supply  
Town of Mangham  
City of Mansfield  
Town of Marksville  
Village of Maurice  
Village of Mer Rouge  
Village of Mermentau  
Milton Water System  
City of Minden  
Mire Branch Water Corp.  
Town of Montgomery  
Monticello Water System  
Town of Moreauville  
Morehouse Consolidated W.D. #2  
Morrow Water System  
N-E-W Carroll Water Dist.  
City of New Iberia (LAWCO)  
North Crowley Water Corp.  
North Franklin Water System  
North Hodge  
City of Opelousas  
Village of Palmetto  
Parish Water Co.  
Pine Hill Water System  
City of Pineville  
Pioneer-Darnell Water System  
City of Plaquemine  
Town of Plaquemine  
Town of Pollock  
Pollock Area Water System  
Village of Powhatan  
Prarie Ronde Water System  
Rapides Parish Waterworks Dist. #3  
City of Rayne  
Town of Rayville  
Red Chute Utilities  
Red Oak Water Co., Inc.  
Robeline-Marthaville Water System

Rural Franklinton Water Corp.  
City of Ruston  
Sandy Lake Water System  
Savoy-Swords Water System  
Town of St. Francisville  
Town of St. Joseph  
St. Landry Consolidated #2  
Town of Sibley  
Village of Sicily Island  
Town of Simmesport  
City of Slidell  
South Bonne Idee Water System  
South DeSoto Water System  
South Grant Water System  
South Oakdale Water System  
S.E. Hodge Water System  
Southwest Ouachita Waterworks, Inc.  
Southwest Allen Parish W.D. #2  
City of Sulphur  
City of Tallulah (Peoples Water Serv.)  
Tangipahoa Parish Water System  
Union Springs Water System  
United Water System  
Town of Urania  
Village Water System  
Town of Vinton  
Walnut Bayou Water Association  
Ward Two Water District  
Ward Four Water District  
Town of Waterproof  
West Allen Parish Water District  
City of Westlake  
Weston Water System  
Town of White Castle  
West Grant Water Association  
City of West Monroe  
West Winnsboro Water System  
Winnfield  
Town of Winnsboro  
Town of Wisner  
City of Zachary  
Zone Two Water System

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS YEAR'S APPROVED WHPPS!

Greater Ouachita Water Com.- West Hwy. 80  
Greater Ouachita Water Com.-Brownville  
Kiroli Shady Oaks  
D'Arbonne Hills Water System  
Brouillette Water System  
Fifth Ward  
Evergreen  
Village of Bonita  
Calcasieu Parish W.D. #8  
Cameron Waterworks #7  
Chataignier Water System  
Egan Water Corps.  
Pitkin Water System  
Village of Simpson  
Southeast Waterworks Dist. #2  
Vermilion Parish WWD#1